

## Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CU-04 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 TRSE-00 RSR-01

/073 W

----- 076642

R 301320 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4633

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6294

THE FOLLOWING TEL FROM MADRAS SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO  
BOMBAY DTD MAY 25 IS REPEATED:

QUOTE

MADRAS 513

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, SCUL

SUBJECT: NORTON SIMON' S STATUE

REF : MADRAS 494 ; NEW DELHI 6026

1. DURING CONVERSATION CONVERING SEVERAL SUBJECTS WITH  
TAMIL NADU INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE ARUL MAY 24  
( MADRAS 510), IG MADE FOLLOWING POINTS REGARDING PUR-  
LOINED NATARAJA NOW POSSESSED BY NORTON SIMON:

A. THE GOI IS NOW PLANNING TO PURSUE THE NATARAJA' S  
RETURN THROUGH BOTH INTERPOL CHANNELS AND GOVT- TO- GOVT  
REPRESENTATIONS. ARUL OPINED THAT THE LATTER MIGHT BE  
INITIATED BY AMBASSADOR- DESIGNATE KAUL, AFTER HE PRESENTS  
CREDENTIALS. INDIAN POLICE ARE VERY HAPPY WITH THE COOPERA-  
TION THEY RECEIVED FROM US NATIONAL CRIME DIVISION-- LIAISON  
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POINT WITH INTERPOL-- WHEN DEPUTY INSPECTOR OF CID  
BRANCH KRISHNARAJ WENT TO WASHINGTON SOME MONTHS  
AGO TO INVESTIGATE THE CASE.

B. BASED ON INFORMATION DEVELOPED TO DATE, ARUL  
SAID THE GOI BELIEVES THE NATARAJA WAS IMPORTED  
ILLEGALLY INTO THE US AND THUS MAY BE RECOVERABLE.  
THERE IS NO DOUBT IT WAS EXPORTED ILLEGALLY FROM INDIA,  
HE SAID. POLICE KNOW IT DEPARTED VIA JAPAN AIR LINES  
IN 1969, CONSIGNED AS A HOUSEHOLD EFFECT TO A NONEXIS-  
TENT " JOHNSTON" IN THE US.

C. AFTER THEFT AND SUBSTITUTION OF THE STATUE SHORTLY  
SUBSEQUENT TO ITS DISCOVERY IN 1956, POLICE HAVE TRACED IT  
THROUGH HANDS OF SEVERAL DEALERS IN INDIA. THEY HAVE  
EVIDENCE IT WAS PURCHASED BY US DEALER HELLER FROM  
MEMBERS OF A NARAIN FAMILY IN BOMBAY, WHOM ARUL CHAR-  
ACTERIZED AS " NOTORIOUS SMUGGLERS."

2. ARUL IS A MEMBER OF INTERPOL EXECUTIVE, AND DEPARTS  
JUNE 1 FOR PARIS INTERPOL MEETING.  
PALMER  
UNQUOTE  
MOYNIHAN

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PFOR  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** willialc  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973NEWDE06294  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730555/aaaajyou.tel  
**Line Count:** 87  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 MADRAS 494, 73 NEW DELHI 6026  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** willialc  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10-Oct-2001 by willialc>  
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30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980306  
**Subject:** NORTON SIMON' S STATUE  
**TAGS:** SCUL, IN  
**To:** NEA  
PARIS  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005